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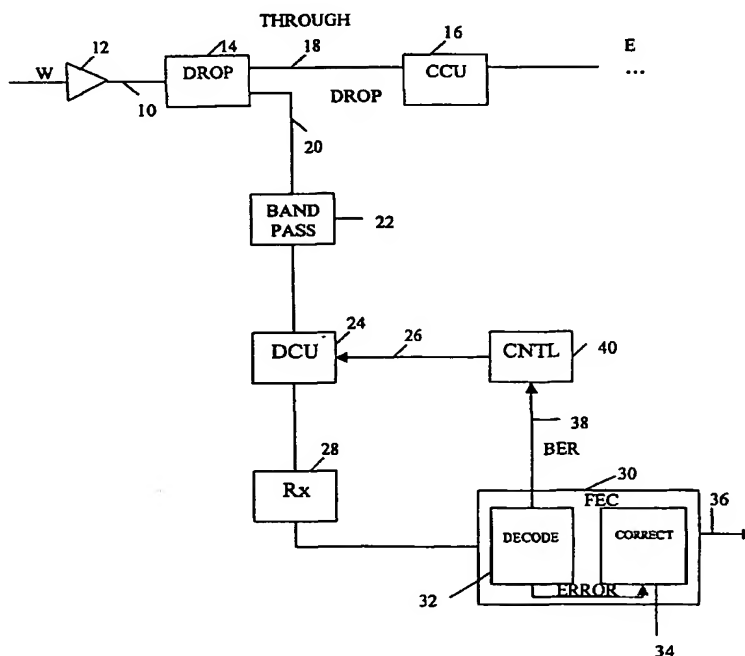
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(54) Title: **DISPERSION COMPENSATION IN OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS**



(57) Abstract: Dispersion compensation is applied to an optical signal first by a coarse compensation applied to the signal multiplex on a communications network and then by a fine adjustable compensation applied to individual signal channels dropped from the network. The error rate is measured, for example using forward error correction, and the dispersion compensation set to minimise the error rate.

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